

Human Services as an Economic Engine:

How Human Services in Illinois Drive Jobs and Economic Benefits

REPORT BRIEFING: Illinois Partners for Human Service commissioned this report to examine the economic value of human services in Illinois. The results reveal that providers offer services throughout the state, constitute a significant part of the workforce, and generate economic benefits for Illinois.

What's the impact?

The human services sector makes a major contribution to Illinois' economy, with \$3.1 B in direct spending and \$1.4 B in induced spending per year.

\$4.5 B

Total annual economic impact

Human services are everywhere.

Providers are located in all counties across Illinois and address needs regionally - not just in Chicago.

The industry is full of small businesses.

The human services sector looks like any other industry in terms of the percent of establishments that are "small businesses."

The Human Services Worker Profile:



Highly educated...

36% of human service workers have a bachelor's degree, which closely resembles the education attainment average for Illinois' entire workforce (38%).

... but working for low wages.



With a college degree, the median hourly wage for human service workers is \$16.61, while the median hourly wage for all Illinois workers with degrees is \$26.14. At all education levels, human service workers have a median wage of \$12.25 per hour compared to the median wage for all workers in Illinois of \$19.61 per hour.

This study provides data for lawmakers to consider as they create a budget that aims to improve the state's finances and invest in community well-being.